

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 INRE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 NIC-01 /078 W

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O R 011402Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7699

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2777

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: ZA RUBEZHOM ON THE MIDDLE EAST

1. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH THE AP WIRE INTERPRETATION OF THE BELYAYEV ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY 28 ZA RUBEZHOM. AP WOULD HAVE IT THAT BELYAYEV (DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AFRICA INSTITUTE) TOUGHENS THE SOVIET LINE ON THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. OUR INITIAL INTERPRETATION OF THE LENGTHY ARTICLE (WE ARE SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH BELYAYEV TO DISCUSS HIS ARTICLE WITH HIM) IS THAT HE DOES NOT GO BEYOND BREZHNEV'S FEBRUARY 14 STATEMENT -- AND INDEED HE QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM IT -- ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. BELYAYEV IS EXPECTEDLY STRONGLY CRITICAL OF THE STEP-BY-  
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STEP APPROACH, AND HE CARPS HEAVILY ON THE ALLEGED SELF INTEREST

OF THE U.S. AND ISRAEL IN FREEZING THE SITUATION. BUT IN THE END HE LEAVES THE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF SOVIET VIEWS ON PARTIAL MEASURES TO BREZHNEV BY QUOTING THE LATTER'S REMARK THAT SUCH STEPS ARE USEFUL ONLY IF THEY REPRESENT STEPS TOWARD A REAL SETTLEMENT AND BY URGING THE "QUICKEST" RESUMPTION OF THE MEPC'S WORK.

3. AP WIRE INTERPRETATION OF THE BELYAYEV ARTICLE DISTORTS TO SOME DEGREE LATTER'S REMARK THAT "AMERICAN DIPLOMACY DOES NOT INTEND EITHER TO INDUCE ISRAEL TO MOVE TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM NOR OCCUPY ITSELF WITH THE PROBLEM AT LEAST UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF 1977, THAT IS, UNTIL A NEWLY ELECTED ADMINISTRATION ENTERS THE WHITE HOUSE." BELYAYEV IS SIMPLY MAKING THE POINT THAT AS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION APPROACHES, THE ADMINISTRATION, IN HIS VIEW, IS GOING TO BECOME LESS AND LESS LIKELY TO RISK OFFENDING THE JEWISH ELECTORATE IN THE U.S. HE IS NOT SAYING, AS THE AP ARTICLE HAS IT, THAT "THE SOVIETS SEE NO HOPE FOR U.S.-SOVIET RECONCILIATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM FOR TWO MORE YEARS."

4. A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE ARTICLE WILL FOLLOW, HOPEFULLY AFTER WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE ARTICLE WITH BELYAYEV HIMSELF.

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